

SN 09/862,855
Docket No. S-94,652
In Response to Office Action dated 05/16/2006

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for characterizing a genetic profile of a selected chromosome pair, comprising:

forming multiple luminescent hybridization probes to hybridize to a wild-type and a mutant polymorphism at a first polymorphic target site and to a wild-type and a mutant polymorphism at a second polymorphic target site, where the probes for the wild-type polymorphic sites have at least one recognizable luminescent characteristic and the probes for the mutant polymorphic sites have at least a second recognizable luminescent characteristic and where the first and second polymorphic sites are located on the selected chromosome and are linked to a selected genetic characteristic;

forming single stranded DNA at least along segments of DNA forming the chromosome, where the single stranded DNA segments contain the first and second polymorphic sites;

forming probe pairs from the luminescent probes, where each probe pair contains a probe specific to the first polymorphic site and a probe specific to the second polymorphic site;

specifically hybridizing each probe pair in separate solutions of the single stranded DNA and determining the presence or absence of each luminescent hybridization probe in each segment of DNA in each solution to obtain a set of outputs; and

analyzing the set of outputs from the hybridized probes to determine the complete haplotype that characterizes the genetic profile of the selected chromosome pair.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for rapid haplotyping comprising the steps of:

SN 09/862,855
Docket No. S-94,652
In Response to Office Action dated 05/16/2006

labeling at least two target sites on a segment of DNA or RNA with separate distinguishable luminescent hybridization probes, where the targets are selected genetic markers;

forming a dilute solution containing the labeled DNA or RNA segments;

illuminating each labeled DNA or RNA segment with light beams; and

detecting the presence or absence of each luminescent hybridization probe on each DNA or RNA segment to determine the haplotype of each DNA or RNA segment.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further including the step of sequentially and repeatedly haplotyping pairs of neighboring genetic makers on DNA segments forming a chromosome.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of detecting the presence or absence of each luminescent hybridization probe includes the step of detecting a luminescence characteristic emitted from each hybridization probe and cross-correlating the detected luminescence characteristic to indicate the presence or absence of both hybridization probes on a single DNA ~~or~~ RNA segment.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of detecting the presence or absence of each luminescent hybridization probe includes flowing the dilute solution of the DNA or RNA through a flow cytometer.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of detecting the presence or absence of each luminescent hybridization probe includes examining individual drops of the solution containing DNA or RNA with a confocal microscope.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of examining individual drops of the solution with a confocal microscope includes scanning each drop through a stationary probe volume or scanning the probe volume through a stationary drop.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, 5, 6, or 7, wherein the targets are base sequence variations selected from the group consisting of single nucleotide

SN 09/862,855
Docket No. S-94,652
In Response to Office Action dated 05/16/2006

polymorphism, multibase deletion, multibase insertion, microsatellite repeats, dinucleotide repeats, tri-nucleotide repeats, sequence rearrangements, and chimeric sequence.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7, wherein the luminescent hybridization probes are selected to have distinguishable characteristics selected from the group consisting of luminescence emission spectral distribution, lifetime, intensity, burst duration, and polarization anisotropy.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the luminescent hybridization probes are formed from the group consisting of single dye molecules, energy transfer dye pairs, nano-particles, luminescent nano-crystals, intercalating dyes, and molecular beacons.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the form of the hybridization probe is selected from the group consisting of DNA, RNA, PNA, and LNA.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the luminescent hybridization probes are selected to have distinguishable characteristics selected from the group consisting of luminescence emission spectral distribution, lifetime, intensity, burst duration, and polarization anisotropy.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the luminescent hybridization probes are formed from the group consisting of single dye molecules, energy transfer dye pairs, nano-particles, luminescent nano-crystals, intercalating dyes, and molecular beacons.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the form of the hybridization probe is selected from the group consisting of DNA, RNA, PNA, and LNA.

SN 09/862,855
Docket No. S-94,652
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15. (Original) The method of Claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7, where the hybridization probes are selected from the group consisting of single probes that are specific for each target or multiple probes that act together to identify the target.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein the single probes are selected from the group consisting of oligo DNA, oligo RNA, oligo beacon, oligo PNA, oligo LNA, and chimeric oligos.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein the multiple probes are selected from the group consisting of hybridization pairs, invader oligo pairs, ligation oligo pairs, mismatch extension 5'-exonuclease oligo pairs, energy transfer oligo pairs, and 3'-exonuclease pairs.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 12, where the hybridization probes are selected from the group consisting of single probes that are specific for each target or two probes that act together to identify the target.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the single probes are selected from the group consisting of oligo DNA, oligo RNA, oligo beacon, oligo PNA, oligo LNA, and chimeric oligos.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 19, wherein the two probes are selected from the group consisting of hybridization pairs, invader oligo pairs, ligation oligo pairs, mismatch extension 5'-exonuclease oligo pairs, energy transfer oligo pairs, and 3'-exonuclease pairs.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, 3, or 4 including forming a dilute solution to a concentration in the range of 100 nM to sub-fM of DNA or RNA fragments.